

ETHICAL SPACE IN CONSERVATION

Ethical Space was introduced to the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative by Dr. Reg Crowshoe (Piikani Nation), a member of the [National Advisory Panel](#), and Danika Littlechild (Ermineskin Cree Nation), Co-Chair of the [Indigenous Circle of Experts](#). It was identified as a fundamental component of achieving success in Canada's conservation initiatives.

Ethical space has been developed in different ways through collective commitment to transform relationships - between and amongst Indigenous Peoples, non-Indigenous peoples and the natural world. An Ethical Space of engagement requires contributions from multiple languages and cultures coming together to co-create solutions to common challenges.

Aspects of Ethical Space

- ▶ It is a process and is built over time
- ▶ Elevates Indigenous systems to a position of equality to non-Indigenous systems (makes room for multiple ways of knowing)
- ▶ It allows for new innovative forms of collaboration and co-creation
- ▶ It unfolds at multiple scales, everyone has a role
- ▶ Requires a commitment to ongoing dialogue and a willingness to learn

Preparing for Ethical Space

Foster Empathy

Compassion without conditions is vital to make room for others.

Active Listening

Be mindful or thoughtful about communication. Words can carry many meanings and some phrases have a complex history

Brave Searching

Have courage to go past observing. Find the places where you can express yourself and engage appropriately.



Be Self-Aware

Who are you as both an individual and a representative? How will you balance this? What are your constraints and freedoms?

Willingness to Engage

Ethical Space can only exist with willing partners. Bring your sense of self and connection with others and the natural environment.



Pathway to Canada Target 1

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Thought Leaders in Ethical Space

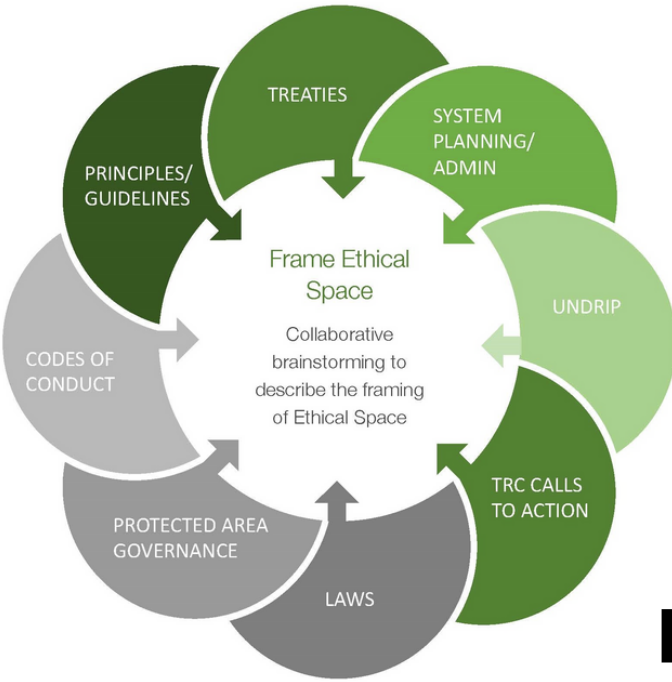
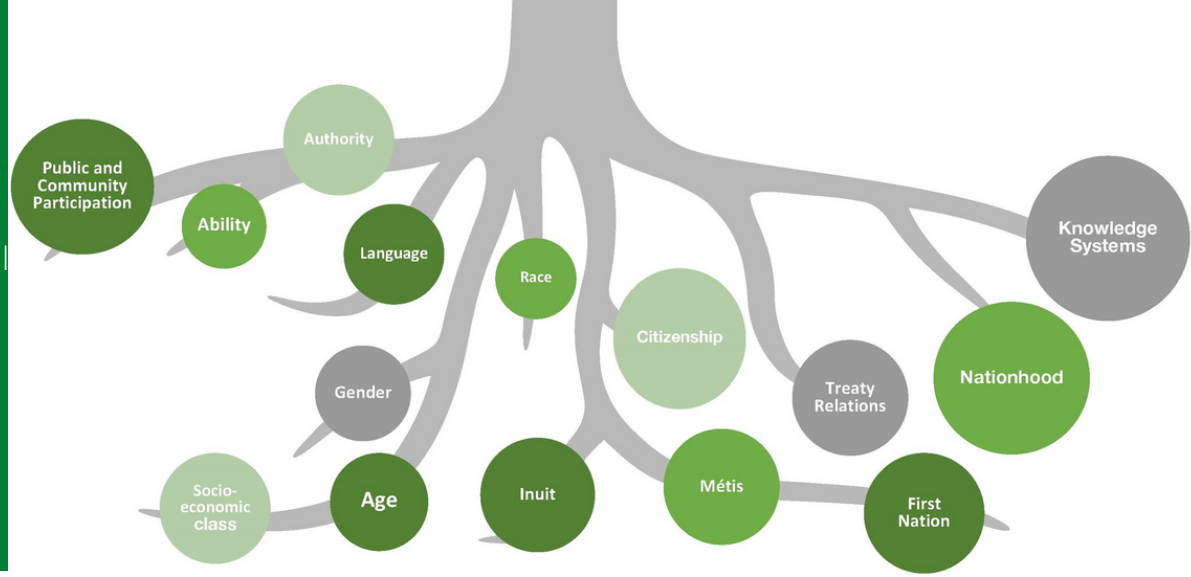
- [Danika Littlechild](#)
- [Dr. Reg Crowshoe](#)
- [Willie Ermine](#)

Ethical Space offers a method of engagement that allows partners to be expressive of multiple worldviews and intersectional identities, to work towards better and more meaningful forms of water and land care.

Ethical Space has been adopted by a number of conservation practitioners.

Positionality in Ethical Space

The paths that lead us to Ethical Space must be recognized as foundational and having deep roots in our identities, forms or representation, and perspective. One person may embody multiple identities.



Framing Ethical Space

When engaging in the framing of an Ethical Space of engagement, you must ask yourselves as a collective: "What are the emerging and existing standards that should frame the space between us?" Examples of possible standards include:

- Principles, Objectives or Guidelines that may already exist about the matter at hand
- Resolutions, Declarations, or Statements on a relevant matter (e.g. UNDRIP)
- Laws from Indigenous or non-Indigenous systems

Ethical Space In Pathway

The principles of Ethical Space have been adopted into the Pathway to Canada Target 1, reflected in the Indigenous Circle of Experts report ([We Rise Together](#)), and recommended in the One with Nature report.

"...the jointly developed pan-Canadian federal, provincial and territorial approach to support progress towards achieving Target 1 recommends that Indigenous collaboration consider the principles of Ethical Space as an open dialogue in which jurisdictions can support meaningful, respectful and cross-cultural discussion, in which Indigenous knowledge systems are considered alongside western science." (Expert from the [One With Nature Report](#), pg. 5)



The June 2017 Pipe Ceremony committed Pathway members to an Ethical Space approach in the Pathway initiative (pg. 14-15 of the [One with Nature Report](#)).

Ethical Space can lead to important and exciting collaboration in a number of areas including:

- The creation of new IPCAs
- Promoting reconciliation in existing protected areas
- Planning processes; and
- National dialogues